"DARK SHADOWS" SHOW #140

VTR - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1966

AIR - FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1967

PRODUCER: ROBERT COSTELLO

DIRECTOR: LELA SWIFT

WRITER: MALCOLM MARMORSTEIN

WORK CALL:

Dry rehearsal Thursday, December 29, 1966; 4-6:30 PM at studio

VTR day: 8:00-10:30 AM Reh.
10:30-11:30 Break
11:30- 3:00 PM Reh., Dress
3:00- 3:30 TAPING

CAST:

Elizabeth Collins Stoddard ..... JOAN BENNETT
Laura Collins ..... DIANA MILLAY
David Collins ..... DAVID HENESY
Roger Collins ..... LOUIS EDMONDS
Victoria Winters ..... ALEXANDRA MOLTKE

STUDIO: ABC-TV-16, 433 West 53rd (bet. 9th & 10th Ave.)

SETS:

TEASER: Widow's Hill

ACT I: Widow's Hill

ACT II: Breakfast Room

ACT III: Breakfast Room
Drawing Room

ACT IV: Drawing Room
Foyer

DAN CURTIS PRODUCTIONS, INC. ABC-TV-16, 433 West 53rd Street
581-3866

PRODUCTION #140

TEASER: David is cliff-hanging ... literally.

ACT ONE: Laura turns away, and David's terror subsides. Laura cries. Vicki makes David feel ashamed, and he goes to Laura. They communicate. Walk together.

ACT TWO: Roger tells Liz about the fire in Phoenix, and Devlin's visit. Laura, David and Vicki in. Vicki tells how she brought them together. Tells that David had said Laura not his mother.

ACT THREE: Liz tells Laura she is pleased with progress. Warns against Devlin. Roger shows pictures to David to convince him that Laura is his mother.

ACT FOUR: Laura and David looking at album. Sit before fire. Laura tells the story of the phoenix, as Vicki eavesdrops. Doors blow open a la Curtis.

DARK SHADOWS # 140

ACT 1V - Fire in trough?

VTR: Fri., Dec. 30, 1966
AIR: Fri., Jan. 6, 1967

	TEASER	ACT 1	ACT 11
SET	Widow's Hill (same nite as Thurs)	Widow's Hill (immed. after)	Breakfast Room (short time later)
FILM	Collinwood ext.nite Waves - rocks -cliff Down angle shot of waves and rocks (twice)	Down angle shot of rocks	
PROPS	Fan	Fan	Newspaper - Liz Table set for dinner for five
WARD ROBE	David w/ coat Laura and Vicki w/coats	David w/ coat Vicki and Laura w/coats	Roger - Liz - Vicki, David and Laura w/ coats?
SE	Wind - surf - waves on rocks	Wind - Surf Waves on rocks	
AUDIO TAPE	Vicki pg. 1		

	ACT 111	ACT 1V
SET	Breakfast Room (an hour later) Drawing room	Drawing room (few moments later) - Foyer - DR - Foyer intercut w/ DR - Foyer w/ doors rigged to fly open Drawing room doors rigged to fly open - DR - Fire in fireplace rigged to flare up
PROPS	Table set for five - dinner is over, dessert is on and coffee - fire poker - ~~Family bible~~ w/ pictures of Laura on a few pages ↓ Pix album	~~Family bible~~ Pix album w/ pix of Laura and pix of David on pony w/ Laura and baby pictures FAN?
WARD ROBE	Liz - Roger - Laura - Vicki - David	David - Roger - Vicki - Laura
SE		Wind

XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY

TEASER

FADE IN:

FILM: EXT. COLLINWOOD. NIGHT. 5E

(ESTABLISHING SHOT)

VICKI (VO)

My name is Victoria Winters ...
A strange, unexplainable terror
has crept into the heart of someone
at Collinwood. 10 09

CUT TO:

FILM: WAVES, ROCKS, CLIFF. 5E

VICKI (VO)

A feeling of love that should
draw people together, has driven
one away ... to the edge of the
precipice ...

CUT TO:

WIDOWS' HILL. CONTINUOUS ACTION 5E
FROM #139

(DAVID ON EDGE OF CLIFF, BACKING
AWAY FROM LAURA. VICKI IMPLORING
HIM)

~~VICKI (VO)~~

~~The edge of the [illegible] abyss ...~~

CUT TO:

FILM: DIZZYING DOWN ANGLE SHOT 5E
OF WAVES AND ROCKS.

140 FRI 2 TEAGER

DAVID

I'm going to get on an ocean liner. I'm going to travel all over the world and see all the far off places.

LAURA (OC)

Are you going to Madagascar?

(DAVID WHEELS AROUND. LAURA IS STANDING THERE. HE LOOKS AT HER WIDE-EYED, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO OR SAY. HE'S FROZEN, IMMOBILE)

LAURA

(CONTINUING TO TALK, CALMLY AND QUIETLY) You remember when we used to talk about far away places, David? When you were a little boy? You used to ask me about Madagascar. You liked the sound of the word. Do you remember that?

DAVID

(BARELY MANAGING TO GET IT OUT) Yes ...

LAURA

I still know lots about far away places.

1A

DAVID
When I grow up—
Do you know what
I'm going to do?

VICKIE
What?

40 91

DAVID

Do you?

LAURA

I can tell you all about them if you want me to. 100 103

~~DAVID~~

~~Okay~~ ...

LAURA

Come here.

DAVID

(SUDDENLY PANICKING) No!

VICKI

David, ~~don't get nervous again.~~ be careful

LAURA

Come to me, David. Please? (SHE STRETCHES HER ARMS OUT TOWARD HIM)

DAVID

No. No! I won't. 110 113 (PANICKING SUDDENLY, HE TURNS AND RUNS, NOT LOOKING WHERE HE'S GOING, HIS EYES FIXED ON LAURA. HE RUNS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF. VICKI SCREAMS. HE STOPS. A SHOT FROM UNDERNEATH THE CLIFF TO ESTABLISH HIS POSITION)

VICKI

David, look out!

LAURA

David, come back! Come to me!

(SHE STARTS TOWARD HIM WITH HER ARMS OUTSTRETCHED. DAVID STARTS TO BACK UP)

DAVID

No! I won't! I won't!

(HE CONTINUES TO BACK UP)

LAURA

Come to me, David! Please! Please!

(HE CONTINUES TO BACK AWAY FROM HER, STARING AT HER FASCINATED)

CUT TO:

A SHOT OF THE UNDERSIDE OF THE CLIFF.

(DAVID'S ON THE EDGE NOW. IF POSSIBLE, DIRT CRUMBLES UNDER HIS WEIGHT AND FALLS TO THE OCEAN BELOW)

CUT TO: TITLE

FILM: THE OCEAN. ROCKS. WAVES

FADE OUT.

CUT TO:

WIDOWS' HILL. CONTINUOUS ACTION.

(DAVID, LAURA, VICKI, AS BEFORE)

VICKI

~~David! Come away from the edge!~~

LAURA

~~David ... David ...~~

DAVID

~~No ... no ... no ...~~

VICKI

What's the matter with you???

LAURA

David ... David ...

DAVID

No ... No ...

VICKI

Don't move! David ... don't move!!!

(INTERCUT CLOSE UPS. VICKI SHOWING FRIGHT. DAVID WIDE-EYED TERROR STARING AT LAURA. LAURA'S EXPRESSION IS SOMETHING ELSE. THERE IS NO TERROR OR FRIGHT IN IT, BUT A COLD DETERMINATION, TINGED WITH A SENSE THAT HER MISSION COULD POSSIBLY GO UNFULFILLED. LET'S SEE YOU GET THAT ONE, DIANA!)

CUT TO:

FILM: DIZZYING, DOWN-ANGLE SHOT OF ROCKS.

VICKI (OC)

David! David!!!

CUT TO:

FILM: WAVES BREAKING AGAINST A ROCKY SHORE.

DISSOLVE TO:

FILM: EXT. COLLINWOOD. NIGHT.

(SUPERIMPOSE MAIN TITLES)

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

305E

FADE IN:

FILM: DIZZYING DOWN-ANGLE SHOT OF ROCKS.

307

CUT TO:

WIDOWS' HILL. CONTINUOUS ACTION.

(DAVID IS TEETERING AT EDGE. VICKI AND LAURA AS BEFORE)

VICKI

David ... David!!!

(DAVID STARING AT LAURA. INTERCUT. LAURA LOWERS HER ARMS, AND TURNS HER BACK TO HIM. DAVID SEEMS TO RELAX, AS VICKI MOVES TO HIM)

FILM

VICKI

Stay where you are
David ... give me your hand ...

(DAVID LIMPLY HOLDS OUT HIS HAND TO HER, CONTINUING TO STARE AT LAURA. LAURA COVERS HER FACE WITH HER HANDS)

VICKI

Easy. [illegible] ... come toward me ...

(DAVID SLOWLY RESPONDS, AND MOVES TOWARD HER) You're safe, now ... nothing's going to happen ...

(DAVID RUBS HIS EYES AND HIS TERROR SUBSIDES. HE LOOKS AT VICKI,

UNCOMPREHENDINGLY ... THEN AT LAURA, WHOSE BACK IS TO HIM)

DAVID

(STILL FRIGHTENED) Miss Wilkes ~~Vicki~~ ...

VICKI

~~You're all right, David.~~ (SHE PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM, AND HOLDS HIM)

Why did you do that?

DAVID

I ... don't know ...

VICKI

That was a terrible thing to do. You almost went over.

DAVID

I ... was scared.

~~VICKI~~

Of what? There was nothing to be frightened of.

DAVID

Yes ... there was.

VICKI

What was it?

DAVID

~~It was ...~~ (HE LOOKS AT LAURA, CAUTIOUSLY. VICKI FOLLOWS HIS GAZE)

VICKI

Oh, David ... sometimes you do the silliest things. (LAURA SEEMS TO BE WEEPING, SILENTLY) Now look what you've done: You've hurt your mother's feelings.

DAVID

(LOOKING AT LAURA) I ... don't know ... (HE WHISPERS) There was something I saw in her eyes ...

VICKI

(SOFTLY) This is the second time you've run away from her. You shouldn't do that. She's traveled a long way to see you ... and she thinks you don't like her.

DAVID

I don't know ...

VICKI

Look at her, David. You've made her cry. (DAVID LOOKS AT HER) She's crying because she loves you, and you won't even let her touch you.

DAVID

Do you think so?

VICKI

I know it. There's only one thing that's important to her ... and that's you. You've always talked about how much you wanted your mother, and now that she's here ... you act like you don't want her.

DAVID

There's just something I can't explain.

VICKI

I'll tell you what's the matter: it's that dream you've been having. You're letting that stay on your mind too much. Your mother isn't a dream anymore ... she's real ... she's here ... and it's time for you to go to her, and give her the love you've both been searching for.

(DAVID IS AFFECTED BY THIS. HE LOOKS AT LAURA, AND SLOWLY, HESITANTLY, MOVES TOWARD HER. SHE STILL COVERS HER FACE. VICKI WATCHES. DAVID STANDS BEHIND HER, LOOKING UP AT HER. SLOWLY HE MOVES AROUND TO THE FRONT OF HER, TRYING TO SEE HER FACE. THEY STAND THIS WAY FOR A FEW MOMENTS)

DAVID

M...Mother ... ? (LAURA STIFFENS SLIGHTLY. SHE IS AWARE THAT DAVID HAS MADE A MOVE TOWARD HER) (SHE TURNS HER HEAD TO ONE SIDE, AND SLOWLY LOWERS HER HANDS) Mother? Don't you want to look at me?

LAURA

(IN A CHOKED VOICE) I ... don't want you to see me crying ...

DAVID

I'm sorry I made you cry.

LAURA

No, David ... it wasn't you alone. There are so many things ... things that are hard to understand, that made me cry.

DAVID

Will you stop now?

LAURA

Yes. (SHE SLOWLY TURNS HER HEAD TO HIM)

DAVID

Did you really travel a long way just to see me?

LAURA

Yes.

~~DAVID~~

~~How do I look to you?~~

LAURA

~~What look wonder in my eyes.~~ (BEAT)

David ... why did you run from me?

DAVID

Because ... you looked so strange.

LAURA

What do you mean?

DAVID

I don't know. There was something about your eyes, I guess.

LAURA

Do you still see the same things, David as you look at me now?

DAVID

No ... no ... I don't.

LAURA

Do you think you'll ever be frightened of me again?

DAVID

I hope not.

LAURA

We have to get used to each other, after such a long time.

DAVID

I guess so.

LAURA

We used to have a lot of fun playing together. And we'll do that again.

DAVID

Mother...

LAURA

Yes, David ...

DAVID

Do you like me?

LAURA

I love you. Very, very much. More than anything, ~~or anyone~~ in the whole world

DAVID

Are you going to stay here?

LAURA

If you want me to.

DAVID

Will you leave me? I mean, ever?

LAURA

No, David ... I'll never leave you. We'll be together ... forever and ever and ever. We'll never be separated.

(DAVID LOOKS UP AT HER. THERE IS STILL SOME DOUBT IN HIS MIND, BUT THERE IS ALSO A SMALL SMILE. HE

SLOWLY PUTS OUT HIS HAND TO HER. SHE SLOWLY REACHES OUT AND TAKES IT. SHE IS VERY MOVED BY THIS. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT, THEN SLOWLY BEGIN TO WALK OFF. VICKI WATCHES, AND FOLLOWS)

FADE OUT.

799 809
750 810
1 1
8499 10

ACT TWO

FADE IN: DRAWING

~~BREAKFAST~~ ROOM. SHORT TIME LATER.

(LIZ SEATED ~~AT~~ TABLE, READING NEWS-PAPER. ~~TABLE SET FOR DINNER.~~ ROGER ~~ENTERS, AND CROSSES TO TABLE.~~

ROGER

Well ... ~~is~~ it just the two of us for dinner tonight?

LIZ

The others ~~should be here any time.~~

ROGER

Anything interesting in the newspaper? Or is it the same boring repetitions?

LIZ

You can have it, if you want.

ROGER

No, thanks. But, I'll tell you ... I'd love to have seen a copy of the Phoenix Tom-Tom, or whatever they call the newspaper there.

LIZ

Why?

ROGER

Sheriff Patterson made an official visit last night.

~~LIZ~~

~~What about?~~

ROGER

You should have seen him. He was at the height of his investigative powers.

LIZ

What does the sheriff have to do with Phoenix?

ROGER

They sent a teletype to him, reporting the death of one Laura Collins.

LIZ

What?

ROGER

The building Laura lived in burned down, and they found an unrecognizable body in her apartment. From what they could tell, it seemed to be Laura.

LIZ

How terrible!

ROGER

The sheriff questioned her, but she hadn't given her key to anyone and she was unable to give any information.

LIZ

It must have been a shock for her.

ROGER

Yes, she was disturbed.

LIZ

When did this happen?

ROGER

Actually ... it was the day she arrived here in Collinsport.

LIZ

Then she has no place to go back to?

ROGER

I asked her that. She said she hadn't planned to go back to that particular place ... that she'd picked out another, far better, place to take David to.

LIZ

If she takes David. His reaction to her is ~~something I'd never~~ unbelievable. Donald's name believed possible.

ROGER

I'm sure it'll ~~work out~~.

LIZ

~~I've never seen a father~~ How can anybody so eager to get rid of ~~his son~~ him?

ROGER

It's not that.

~~That has nothing to do with it.~~

The child will be far better off

with his natural mother, ~~than with~~

~~some well-meaning relatives.~~

~~LIZ~~

~~Present company included?~~

ROGER

I don't mean to reflect on you,

but you have your own problems

with your own daughter.

LIZ

Have I?

ROGER

Are you aware she brought Burke

Devlin here last night?

LIZ

No, I'm not.

ROGER

Made himself quite at home.

But, what disturbed me the most,

was that it gave him access to

Laura, at a time when I wanted

them not to meet. He deliberately

used Carolyn to get to Laura.

LIZ

Did he get to her?

ROGER

Fortunately, I got there in time. Burke thought it was ten years ago, and was breathing down her neck. It was a pretty nasty scene, and I've warned him to stay away. (VICKI, DAVID AND LAURA ENTER. DAVID IS STILL HOLDING LAURA'S HAND)

~~VICKI~~ LAURA

Hello We're not late, are we?

LIZ

~~No, not~~ No. (SHE NOTICES THAT LAURA AND DAVID ARE HOLDING HANDS. TO LAURA) Is everything ... all right?

LAURA

Yes ... everything is fine. We were out taking a walk.

~~ROGER~~ LIZ

I'm very happy to hear that.

DAVID

Mother ... would you like to see my room?

LAURA

I'd like that very much. (TO LIZ) Is there time?

LIZ

Yes ... Mrs. Johnson ~~believes in building up an appetite~~ likes to eat.

LAURA

Then we'll be right down.

DAVID

Come on ... I want to show you some of my special toys. (HE LEADS HER OUT. THEY EXIT)

~~ROGER~~ L/R

Well, Vicki ... you've done a good job.

VICKI

Thank you.

ROGER

How did you manage to get the two of them together? 1135

VICKI

Mrs. Collins and I prearranged a meeting place, and I made sure that David was there.

LIZ

And it was that easy?

VICKI

As a matter of fact ... it was very frightening.

LIZ

What do you mean?

VICKI

The same thing happened as soon as David saw her. He seemed petrified with fear ... and started ~~running~~ backing ... ~~running~~ to the edge of the cliff. but he stopped in time & it was all right.

ROGER

What's the matter with that child? He's gotten to be so impossible lately.

LIZ

You don't understand him.

ROGER

Dr. Freud would have a rough time with him.

LIZ

~~Vicki~~ ... what finally brought David and his mother together?

VICKI

Mrs. Collins broke down, and cried. Then I made David feel ashamed of himself, and he went to her.

ROGER

Apparently it was effective. I'm very pleased with the progress.

VICKI

But, I had the feeling that David was about to say the same thing he said when he first met her.

LIZ

What did he say?

VICKI

He said that she wasn't his mother.

LIZ

(STUNNED) What?

ROGER

Now, Vicki ... really! I asked you not to bring that nonsense up.

VICKI

I'm sorry, ~~Mr. Collins~~ Roger. 12 31.

LIZ

Why would he say that?

ROGER

He just didn't recognize her. It's as simple as that, and quite unimportant. That's why I suggested that Vicki forget it.

LIZ

That's a hard thing to forget. (BEAT) David is a very sensitive

(MORE)

LIZ (CONTD)

and intuitive boy. I can't imagine what would make him say a thing like that.

(THERE IS AN EXPRESSION OF BAFFLEMENT ON HER FACE)

FADE OUT.

12521499

12-1344 1400 4116

1954 1943 1449 598

ACT THREE

1549
1500

FADE IN:

BREAKFAST ROOM. AN HOUR LATER.

(LIZ, ROGER, LAURA, VICKI AND DAVID ARE SEATED AT THE TABLE. DINNER HAS ENDED)

DAVID

Isn't there any more dessert left?

LIZ

No ... I'm afraid not ~~but there are plenty of vegetables.~~

~~DAVID~~

~~Who wants those old things?~~

LIZ

(TO LAURA) You haven't eaten much.

LAURA

I wasn't very hungry.

ROGER

(RISING) Remind me to buy Mrs. Johnson an up-to-date cookbook.

DAVID

(RISING) We whould have had hamburgers.

VICKI

I thought you were going to say hot dogs.

DAVID
May I be excused? 1550
Liz
Yes David

ROGER

Shall we go inside ... before we're served another course?

(THEY ARE RISING AND STARTING OUT OF THE ROOM. ROGER, VICKI AND DAVID EXIT. LAURA IS HEADED FOR THE DOOR)

LIZ

Laura?

LAURA

(STOPPING AND TURNING TO HER) Yes?

LIZ

Could we talk for a moment? 1620

LAURA

Of course. → ROGER will guide the drawing room.

LIZ

I'm glad to see you and David beginning to get on well together.

LAURA

Thank you. I am, too.

LIZ

I was very concerned about his first reaction to you. 1635 1553

LAURA

You can imagine how I felt ... seeing him run from me.

LIZ

From what I'm told ... he didn't even believe you were his mother.

LAURA

(STARTLED) Did he say that?

LIZ

Yes.

LAURA

Strange boy.

LIZ

Yes, he is. You ought to know that about him. Get to know how he thinks ... his unusual point of view.

LAURA

I want to spend all my time with him.

LIZ

He's very imaginative ... even feels that he can communicate with the ... ghosts of the Collins family.

LAURA

(THIS MAKES HER VERY UNEASY) Yes ... he seems to like fantasy.

LIZ

He spends a lot of time with them.

LAURA

Perhaps he'll spend less with ...

them ... now that I'm here.

LIZ

I hope so.

~~LAURA~~

~~Is that what you wanted to talk about?~~

LIZ

Laura

One other thing ... Burke Devlin.

LAURA

Oh, yes.

~~LIZ~~

~~I understand he paid a visit to you last night.~~

LAURA

~~Uninvited.~~

LIZ

1730 1645

~~I'm sure. I guess~~ you know that

he's out to destroy the Collins

family and name.

LAURA

I know something about it.

LIZ

I know that there used to be

a close feeling between you.

LAURA

That was a long time ago. ~~I don't want to have anything to do with him now.~~

LIZ

If you're usable, he'll use you. If you're vulnerable, he'll find your weakness.

LAURA

I want to assure you that I don't intend to ~~be used by him, or~~ become an ally of his.

LIZ

I'm glad of that. I wouldn't want to see ~~the wrong things~~ any thing get in the way of your ~~purpose~~ reason for coming here.

LAURA

Nothing ... will get in the way.

(THERE IS AN ABSOLUTENESS IN THE WAY SHE SAYS THIS THAT GIVES LIZ SOME CAUSE FOR CONCERN)

CUT TO:

DRAWING ROOM. SAME TIME.

(DAVID IS POKING THE FIRE. ROGER AND VICKI STAND TO ONE SIDE, SO THAT DAVID CANNOT HEAR THEM)

1756 ; 1709

ROGER

Really, Vicki ... I asked you not to mention what David said.

VICKI

I'm sorry ... but it just seemed so unusual for David to be so positive that Mrs. Collins wasn't his mother.

ROGER

He's having his usual hallucinations. You should be well aware of them by now, so that you've not taken in by them.

VICKI

But, he seemed so insistent about it, that I think it must be cleared up.

ROGER

I agree with you, and I think I can take care of that right now. (HE CROSSES TO A PLACE WHERE THE FAMILY ALBUM IS KEPT, AND TAKES THE ALBUM TO THE SOFA) David?

DAVID

What is it?

ROGER

Come away from that fire for a minute. I want to show you

ROGER (CONTD)

something. (DAVID CROSSES TO SOFA) Sit down. (DAVID SITS) You've been saying something that isn't very nice.

DAVID

What?

ROGER

About your mother not being your mother. Why did you say that?

DAVID

(SULKING) I ... don't know.

ROGER

You don't know. Well, it happens to be a terrible thing to say, and it's got to stop right now.

DAVID

I won't say it anymore.

ROGER

It's been a long time since you've seen your mother, and you probably fixed an image in your mind. Now that you've seen her again, the image you have in your mind doesn't quite match what she actually looks like.

~~DAVID~~

~~It isn't that~~ ...

ROGER

~~It is. I assure you.~~ (HE OPENS THE ALBUM) I'd like you to take a look at some pictures.

DAVID

I've seen them.

ROGER

I want you to look at them again. Especially the pictures of your mother. Look at this one. (DAVID LOOKS. VICKI COMES AROUND BEHIND THE SOFA AND LOOKS OVER THEIR SHOULDERS) Is that your mother?

DAVID

Yes ... 1910 ? 1891

ROGER

And this one ... this one ... (HE TURNS PAGES AS HE POINTS TO THEM)

DAVID

Yes ... yes ... B-1465 B-55

ROGER

Granted that these pictures were taken ten years ago, ~~would you say she's changed much?~~

~~DAVID~~

~~No.~~

ROGER

Look at ~~all these pictures~~ them carefully. (DAVID TAKES ANOTHER LOOK) Now, David ... once and for all ... is there any doubt in your mind ... that your mother has come back?

DAVID

(HE HESITATES, THINKING, STRUGGLING WITHIN) ... (HE HOLDS OFF FOR A MOMENT, THEN GIVES IN) ... She's my mother ...

CUT TO:

(SHOT OF LAURA IN THE DOORWAY. SHE HAS OVERHEARD, AND THERE ARE TEARS IN HER EYES, COUPLED WITH A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT)

FADE OUT.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

DRAWING ROOM. A FEW MOMENTS LATER.

(DAVID, ROGER, VICKI, AS BEFORE. LAURA ENTERS)

LAURA

Looking at the family album?

ROGER

Yes ... I was showing David the early pictures of his mother.

LAURA

I'd love to see them.

ROGER

(HE MOVES THE BOOK OVER ONTO DAVID'S LAP AND RISES) Please do. It's been very enlightening to David. It seems to have erased any doubts that were in his mind. Isn't that so, David?

DAVID

Yes ...

ROGER

David is the kind of boy that you have to prove things to. He likes to be sure.

LAURA

I think that's a wonderful quality. I guess you want to be a scientist when you grow up, don't you?

~~DAVID~~

~~I don't know ...~~

LAURA

Will you show me the pictures?

DAVID

Okay.

LAURA

There are some that I remember ... 2015 2049
but there must be others that
were added after I ... went away.
(SHE SITS BESIDE HIM AND HE SHIFTS
THE ALBUM SO THAT THEY BOTH SHARE
IT)

~~ROGER~~

David ... show your mother the one
where she's holding you on the pony.

DAVID

(TURNING THE PAGE) It's right here.
(THEY LOOK AT IT)

ROGER

I've got a few things to do. Vicki,
could I see you for a moment?

VICKI

Yes, of course. (THEY EXIT)

CUT TO:

FOYER. CONTINUOUS ACTION.

(ROGER AND VICKI ENTER FROM
DRAWING ROOM)

2098 2109

ROGER

I want them to have more time alone together. I think we've made enormous strides today.

VICKI

Yes, David seems to have gotten over that strange terror.

LAURA & DAVID cd lit in OR

ROGER

I appreciate what you're doing, Vicki. Your talents as a governess are being put to the test.

VICKI

I understand how he feels ... I've been searching for the same thing ... but I haven't been as lucky as he.

CUT TO:

DRAWING ROOM. SAME TIME.

(LAURA AND DAVID LOOKING THROUGH ALBUM. LAUGHING)

2130

LAURA

Look how tiny you were then!

DAVID

I'm getting taller.

LAURA

I'll say so. I think you're going to be a very tall young man.

DAVID

Taller than my father?

LAURA

Yes.

DAVID

Taller than ... Burke Devlin?

LAURA

(BEAT) Possibly.

DAVID

(HE LOOKS AT HER) What's it like where you came from?

LAURA

Some people would call it ... paradise.

DAVID

Really? That's pretty good.

LAURA

(STARING INTO THE FIRE) You'd like the weather: the sun shining ... warm ... never cold or damp like here. The air has a wonderful fragrance.

DAVID

Like perfume?

LAURA

Yes ... but it comes from all the beautiful flowers and plants. You can smell the cinnamon ...

DAVID

I like cinnamon toast.

LAURA

And there are the tallest palm trees ... with their trunks curving upward into the sky ... the kind of trees that would make good nesting places for the phoenix.

DAVID

The phoenix? What's that?

LAURA

A legendary bird ... a bird said to have immortality.

CUT TO:

FOYER. SAME TIME.

(VICKI CROSSING FOYER. SHE OVER-HEARS LAURA TELLING STORY. SHE PAUSES TO LISTEN. INTERCUT)

CUT TO:

DRAWING ROOM. CONTINUOUS ACTION.

(LAURA AND DAVID AS BEFORE)

DAVID

I've never seen one.

LAURA

Very few ever have. It's said that there is only one on the earth at a time.

DAVID

What does it look like?

LAURA

It's very beautiful ... with a scarlet head and body. The eyes are sea-blue ... ~~and the feet are purple~~. The wings ~~have all the~~ iridescent ~~colors of the peacock~~.

DAVID

I wish I could see one.

LAURA

Perhaps you can ... in your imagination. ~~Look into the fire~~ ... and try to see this beautiful creature ... flying high in the clouds ... listen for the flap of its wings ... as it flies on from century to century ...

DAVID

It must be very old.

LAURA

That's one of the fascinating things about it. It takes ~~five~~ are hundred years to grow old ... but even at that age, it never loses its beauty. Then, one day, it feels

(MORE)

LAURA (CONTD)

its wings growing heavier ...
and knows it hasn't much time.
It can hear Death calling to
it ... and so it knows what it
must do. (DAVID IS CAUGHT UP
IN THE STORY, AS IS VICKI) It
begins its last, long flight ...
and searches for the tallest
palm tree. It gathers up all the
sweet-smelling spices, and builds
a very special nest in the top of
the tree. ~~This nest will become
the funeral pyre~~. (THIS IS RIGHT
UP DAVID'S ALLEY. HE IS ~~ENTHRALLED~~)
At dawn ... the phoenix awakens ...
~~faces the east~~ ... and begins to sing
~~a hymn to the sun~~. ~~This song is said
to be the most beautiful sound in
the world~~. The sun rises, and its
rays become strong, and beat down
on the dry ~~cinnamon~~. Gradually, it
begins to smoulder, and the phoenix,
with its wings, fans the spark ...
until the entire nest is ablaze.
(TELLING THIS STORY HAS BECOME AN
EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR LAURA.
SHE IS VERY HIGH NOW)

(MORE)

LAURA (CONTD)

The ~~one~~-beautiful feathers of the phoenix catch fire ... and it is consumed with flame ... burned to ashes. Then ... from out of these ashes ... the phoenix is reborn!! Reborn ... to spend the next ~~five~~ one hundred years in paradise!!!

(DAVID LOOKS AT HER WITH GREAT ADMIRATION. SHE HAS WON HIM OVER)

(SHE RECITES)

~~"All these receive their birth from other things: But from himself the phoenix only springs; Self-born, begotten by the parent flame In which he burn'd; another and the same ..."~~

CUT TO:

FOYER. SAME TIME.

(FRONT DOORS SUDDENLY BURST OPEN IN A TREMENDOUS GUST OF WIND. DRAWING ROOM DOORS FOLLOW SUIT. VICKI FLATTENS AGAINST THE WALL, UNCOMPREHENDINGLY)

CUT TO:

DRAWING ROOM. SAME TIME

(THE FLAMES IN THE FIREPLACE ARE FANNED. LAURA AND DAVID STARE WIDE-EYED INTO IT ... THE LIGHT FLICKERING IN THEIR FACES)

FADE OUT.

2603
2526
2528
Comp
2628
2636
BBL
2644
2696
Nude
2715
Grand
2830

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